



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Walla Walla District

News Release

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Contact: Public Affairs Office

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Walla Walla District plans National Public Lands Day activities

WALLA WALLA, Wash. – Do you enjoy outdoor recreation activities on public lands? Would you like to help keep them safe, clean and beautiful?

If you answered "Yes" to both questions, then come join volunteer crews as they honor National Public Lands Day on Saturday, Sept. 27, at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' recreation areas in the Walla Walla District.

Public Lands Day is the nation's largest, single-day volunteer event to benefit public lands. Officially the last Saturday of September, organizers anticipate more than 100,000 Americans of all ages will participate nationwide, volunteering their time and effort to help restore the beauty and vitality of our public lands.

Walla Walla, Wash. – At Mill Creek Dam and Bennington Lake volunteers will help build a retaining wall on a section of one of the walking trails, conduct general trail maintenance, and if enough volunteers join in, construct a wildlife observation blind. The event will last from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sept. 27. Volunteers should meet park rangers at the Corps' Mill Creek office located at 3211 Reservoir Road in Walla Walla. For more information or to sign up to help, call John Derinzy, Natural Resource Specialist, at (509) 527-7165. *Getting there:* from Hwy. 12 at the east end of Walla Walla, exit south onto Tausick Way, continue past Walla Walla Community College, immediately on the south side of the Mill Creek crossing, turn left onto Reservoir Road and follow it about 1 mile to the Corps office, located on the left side of the road.

Burbank, Wash. – Ice Harbor Natural Resources Management Office staff need volunteers to help make improvements to the Hood Park Nature Trail from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 27. This project includes installing bulletin boards, picnic tables, squirrel boxes, bird boxes, mallard tubes, wood duck boxes and spreading wood chips on trails. Volunteers should meet Corps staff at 10 a.m. in the parking lot nearest the entrance to Hood Park. For more information, call Park Ranger Joyce McDonald at (509) 543-6066. *Getting there:* travel 3 miles south of Pasco, Wash., on U.S. Highway 12; turn east at junction of Highway 124; Hood Park entrance is immediately on the left.

Whether you join a formal public lands event or just grab a trash bag to help pick up litter as you walk the trails in a nature area or park, your efforts help preserve the beauty of public lands for everyone to enjoy. Anyone who enjoys fun in the great outdoors is encouraged to "Give a helping hand to America's lands."

Volunteers should wear sturdy, closed-toe shoes suitable for uneven terrain, dress appropriately for weather and working conditions (long pants, hat for shade) and bring personal work gloves, snacks and drinking water in a portable container – some project locations do not have potable water services in the immediate vicinity.

National Public Lands Day began in 1994 with three federal agencies and 700 volunteers. Last year, 110,000 volunteers worked in 1,300 locations and in every state. Now, eight federal agencies and many state and local lands participate in this annual day of caring for shared lands. For more information about National Public Lands Day, visit their Web site at www.publiclandsday.org.

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